



HEALTH ALERT

4 April 2016

Judgments	2
Victoria	2
Australian Capital Territory.....	2
New South Wales	2
Queensland.....	3
South Australia.....	3
United Kingdom	4
Legislation	4
Australian Capital Territory.....	4
New South Wales	4
Queensland.....	4
Reports	4
Australia. Commonwealth Ombudsman.....	4
Australia. Department of Health	5
Australia. Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the boards (AHPRA)	5
Australia. National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC).....	6
Australia. Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)	6
Australian Institute of Health & Welfare (AIHW)	7
Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care	7
Australia. National Mental Health Commission	7
New South Wales. Ministry of Health.....	7
New South Wales. Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC).....	7
Northern Territory. Department of Health	8
Queensland. Department of Health	8
South Australia (SA). Department for Health & Ageing	8
Tasmania. Department of Health & Human Services	8
Victoria. Department of Health	9
Western Australia (WA). Department of Health	9
New Zealand. Ministry of Health.....	10
United States of America. Department of Health & Human Services	10
Australian Medical Association (AuMA).....	11
About us	11
More information	12

JUDGMENTS

Victoria

22 March 2016 - [De Bruyn v Victorian Institute of Forensic Mental Health \[2016\] VSC 111](#)

The plaintiff, Mr Robert de Bruyn, is an involuntary patient at a mental health facility (the Hospital). He sought declaratory and injunctive relief against the defendant to prevent the implementation of a smoke free policy (the policy) at the Hospital.

The policy applied to all of the defendant's sites from 1 July 2015. It provides that smoking is not permitted on the premises and people in possession of such items will be prevented from entering the grounds. The plaintiff relied on three main grounds to support his claim. Firstly, that the policy was outside the powers of the defendant because it was not "done for, or in connection with" the provision of mental health services. Secondly, that the policy was contrary to the *Tobacco Act*. That Act provides that "a person must not smoke in an enclosed workspace". The plaintiff contended that this confers a legal right to smoke in all other places. Finally, the plaintiff submitted that the policy contravened the *Charter of Human Rights*. He relied upon the right to be treated with humanity; the right not to be subjected to medical treatment without consent; and the right of a person detained without charge to be treated in a way that is appropriate for a person who has not been convicted.

The court dismissed the motion with the exception of granting the plaintiff leave to amend allegations relating to the defendant's failure to give proper consideration to the plaintiff's human right not to be subjected to medical treatment without consent.

24 March 2016 - [Inquest into the death of Caroline Emily Lovell](#)

Ms Lovell delivered a healthy baby girl in a birthing pool situated in a dark room of her home, where she was attended by two midwives. She was allowed to remain in the pool unchecked for an hour after the birth. During this time, Ms Lovell was suffering from injuries that caused significant blood loss. This caused her to faint when trying to get of the pool. After regaining consciousness, the midwife refused to call her an ambulance. Ms Lovell collapsed again and an ambulance was eventually called. She suffered a cardiac arrest and died in hospital about 12 hours later.

One of the midwives present during the birth had previously been investigated for overseeing a homebirth where the baby was a stillborn. Four months after Ms Lovell's death, this midwife forfeited her registration with AHPRA. She since continued to offer her services.

The Coroner found that Ms Lovell's death could have been prevented and that various acts and omissions by the midwives had "caused, or substantially contributed to" her death. He recommended the Director of Public Prosecutions examine whether charges should be laid. The Coroner also called for a review of the regulation of midwives caring for women during home births, and for the government and health authorities to consider an offence banning unregistered health practitioners from taking money for attending home births. The final recommendation was a call for a public campaign to educate women and their partners about the safety of home birth.

Australian Capital Territory

18 March 2016 - [Medical Board of Australia v Kanapathipillai \[2016\] ACAT 16](#)

OCCUPATIONAL DISCIPLINE – health practitioner regulation – general practitioner – professional misconduct – repeated drug use – effect of misrepresentations to the Board and other health practitioners – impairment – suspension of registration – conditions including psychiatric treatment, mentoring, supervision and training

New South Wales

17 March 2016 - [Health Care Complaints Commission v Duggan \(No. 2\) \[2016\] NSWCATOD 30](#)

Osteopathy; allegations of misconduct involving intimate touching of three female patients; whether touching clinically warranted; whether informed consent obtained; adequacy of clinical records

21 March 2016 - [Health Care Complaints Commission v Greive \[2016\] NSWCATOD 28](#)

Professional boundaries of a Registered Nurse in care of patient in Mental Health Unit.

22 March 2016 - [Rice v Ghabrial \[2016\] NSWSC 313](#)

PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE – interrogatories – medical negligence suit in which the plaintiff has no knowledge of the events in the operating theatre and the state of knowledge of each doctor – allegations that doctor thought to be performing operation did not – meaning of “necessary” in UCPR – meaning of “special reasons” in UCPR – interrogatories ordered.

21 March 2016 - [Quach v Health Care Complaints Commission \[2016\] NSWCA 49](#)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW – notices of motion seeking judicial review – where Court of Appeal has dismissed amended summons in underlying proceeding – where present applications not commenced by separate summons – where maker of decision to be reviewed not joined as party – motions dismissed

23 March 2016 - [Health Care Complaints Commission v Khan \[2016\] NSWCATOD 32](#)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW – Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2013 NSW – Professional disciplinary proceedings brought by HCCC against practitioner. Where two complaints heard together. Where it is asserted that the practitioner engaged in conduct that demonstrates his practice of medicine was significantly below the standard reasonably expected of a practitioner of an equivalent level of training or expertise. Where it is asserted practitioner’s medical records in respect of an 8 year old child were inadequate. Where separate complaint asserts practitioner inappropriately prescribed medications for himself, and failed to maintain adequate records in respect of his self-prescribing. Where it is also asserted practitioner suffers impairment and further asserted he is not competent to practise. Where practitioner withdraws material filed and does not seek to defend complaints. Where all complaints are found proven.

30 March 2016 - [Health Care Complaints Commission v Leighton \[2016\] NSWCATOD 33](#)

Psychologist , impairment, drug use, unethical conduct, sexual relationship

Queensland

21 January 2016 - [Dr Choo-Tian Lee v Medical Board of Australia \[2016\] QCAT 023](#)

PROFESSIONS AND TRADES – MEDICAL PROFESSION – GENERAL PRACTITIONER – COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINE – BOUNDARY VIOLATIONS – CHANGE OF CONDITIONS – STAY OF OPERATION OF AMENDMENT – where the patient is alleged to have been a minor during at least part of the boundary violations – where the patient is vulnerable – where the disclosure of certain information the subject of the proceedings may be calculated to embarrass the patient or cause psychiatric injury or distress – whether a non-publication order protecting the patient should be granted.

12 November 2015 - [Medical Board of Australia v Ferguson \[2015\] QCAT 11](#)

PROFESSIONS AND TRADES – MEDICAL PROFESSION – GENERAL PRACTITIONER – COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINE – PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE AND DILIGENCE – COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT – where the respondent was a general practitioner – where the respondent possessed significant and relevant adverse historical disciplinary findings – where the applicant alleged that the respondent engaged in various medical practices inconsistent with contemporary professional medical standards – where the respondent exhibited deteriorated executive functioning affecting the complex decision-making – whether the respondent committed unsatisfactory professional conduct or professional misconduct – whether the Tribunal should make a finding of impairment – whether the respondent should be precluded from registering as a medical practitioner

South Australia

23 March 2016 - [Psychology Board of Australia v Bakjac \[2016\] SAHPT 3](#)

Psychologist - Complaint of professional misconduct involving inappropriate personal relationship with a client leading to a sexual relationship - Giving false and misleading information in a letter from her then lawyers to AHPRA and also to an investigator of that organisation - Held: Admitted by the respondent that this was professional misconduct - Tribunal orders: 1. That the respondent be reprimanded - 2. That the

respondent's registration as a psychologist be suspended for 15 months - 3. That the respondent undergo supervision for 12 months after returning to practice including completing education programs approved by the Board - 4. That the respondent pay the Board's costs either as agreed or as fixed by the Tribunal - Ss 196 Health Practitioners Regulation National Law (South Australia) Act 2010.

United Kingdom

23 March 2016 - [Dr Michalak v The General Medical Council & Ors \[2016\] EWCA Civ 172](#)

LEGISLATION

1 April 2016 - [National Health \(Price and Special Patient Contribution\) Amendment Determination 2016 \(No. 2\) \(PB 19 of 2016\)](#) F2016L00478 (PB 19 of 2016) - as made

1 April 2016 - [Amendment Determination under section 84AH of the National Health Act 1953 \(2016\) \(No. 1\) \(PB 25 of 2016\)](#) F2016L00474 (PB 25 of 2016) - as made

1 April 2016 - [National Health \(Highly specialised drugs program\) Special Arrangement Amendment Instrument 2016 \(No. 3\)](#) F2016L00473 (PB 22 of 2016) - as made

1 April 2016 - [National Health \(Pharmaceutical Benefits - Therapeutic Groups\) Amendment Determination 2016 \(No. 1\) \(PB 24 of 2016\)](#) F2016L00472 (PB 24 of 2016) - as made

1 April 2016 - [National Health \(Originator Brand\) Amendment Determination 2016 \(No. 2\) \(PB 27 of 2016\)](#) F2016L00471 (PB 27 of 2016) - as made

1 April 2016 - [National Health \(Listing of Pharmaceutical Benefits\) Amendment Instrument 2016 \(No. 3\) \(PB 18 of 2016\)](#) F2016L00470 (PB 18 of 2016) - as made

1 April 2016 - [National Health Determination under paragraph 98C\(1\)\(b\) Amendment 2016 \(No. 2\) \(PB 20 of 2016\)](#) F2016L00469 (PB 20 of 2016) - as made

1 April 2016 - [National Health \(Listed drugs on F1 or F2\) Amendment Determination 2016 \(No. 3\) \(PB 26 of 2016\)](#) F2016L00468 (PB 26 of 2016) - as made

29 March 2016 - [Health Insurance \(General Medical Services Table\) Amendment \(2016 Measures No. 1\) Regulation 2016](#) F2016L00388 - as made

24 March 2016 - [Private Health Insurance \(Prostheses\) Rules 2016 \(No. 2\)](#) F2016L00381 - as made

21 March 2016 - [My Health Records \(Information Commissioner Enforcement Powers\) Guidelines 2016](#) F2016L00360 - as made

Australian Capital Territory

22 March 2016 - [Health \(Patient Privacy\) Amendment Act 2015](#) - all provisions commenced

New South Wales

17 March 2016 - [Health Practitioner Regulation National Law \(NSW\) Amendment \(Review\) Act 2016](#) - assent

Queensland

24 March 2016 - [Health Legislation Amendment Act 2016](#) (Act 8/2016) - commenced

REPORTS

Australia. Commonwealth Ombudsman

30 March 2016 - [Report of Private Health Fund Service and Performance](#) - The Private Health Insurance Ombudsman (PHIO) today published its annual *State of the Health Funds Report* (the Report), providing information on the comparative performance and service delivery of private health insurance funds in Australia for the period from 1 July 2013 - 30 June 2014.

Australia. Department of Health

Media releases

30 March 2016 - [Statement from Minister for Rural Health Fiona Nash](#) - Statement from Minister for Rural Health Fiona Nash following the death of remote area nurse Gayle Woodford in the NPY lands.

24 March 2016 - [Unite to end TB on World Tuberculosis Day](#) - Today marks World TB Day, a timely reminder that while we are fortunate to have low rates of tuberculosis (TB) in Australia, the threat is still present in our region.

23 March 2016 - [What single test can save up to 500 Australian lives every year?](#) - In a renewed bid to cut the incidence of bowel cancer, the Australian Government launched A Gift for Living campaign on 23 March 2016.

18 March 2016 - [\\$910 million boost creates over 17,000 new aged care places](#) - Thousands of Australians will benefit from a substantial increase in funding for aged care services, with the Australian Government announcing 17,385 new aged care places worth an estimated \$910 million.

Private Health insurance Circulars

24 March 2016 - [PHI 21/16 - Amendments to February 2016 Protheses List](#)

22 March 2016 - [PHI 20/16 - New Public Hospital Information](#)

20 March 2016 - [PHI 19/16 - Nursing-home Type patient contribution rates and minimum benefits at 20 March 2016](#) (amended 24 March 2016)

20 March 2016 - [PHI 18/16 - Changes to Second Tier Eligible Hospitals](#) (amended 24 March 2016)

Australia. Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the boards (AHPRA)

30 March 2016 - [Online renewal for nurses and midwives is now open](#) - Online renewal is now open for nurses and midwives registered to practise in Australia.

30 March 2016 - [Newsletter from the National Board](#) - The Medical Board of Australia releases its latest newsletter.

30 March 2016 - [Communiqué from the Board](#) - The Osteopathy Board releases its latest communiqué.

30 March 2016 - [Tips to help prepare for continuing professional development audit](#) - The Osteopathy Board of Australia has published tips to help prepare osteopaths for practitioner audit on continuing professional development (CPD).

29 March 2016 - [Communiqué from the Board](#) - The Pharmacy Board of Australia releases its latest communiqué.

30 March 2016 - [Newsletter from the National Board](#) - The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia releases its latest newsletter.

29 March 2016 - [Tribunal orders psychologist has to case to answer](#) - The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) has ordered that no further action is to be taken against Ms Meddwyn Coleman, a psychologist.

29 March 2016 - [A conversation with National board member Annette Symes](#) - Ms Annette Symes is a new practitioner board member from New South Wales. Annette was appointed on 31 August 2015, for a period of three years.

29 March 2016 - [Communiqué](#) - The Dental Board of Australia releases its latest communiqué.

24 March 2016 - [Newsletter from the National Board](#) - The Pharmacy Board of Australia releases its latest newsletter.

24 March 2016 - [Further information for the revised general registration standard published](#) - The Psychology Board of Australia has today published further information about the revised registration standard for general registration.

24 March 2016 - **Consultation paper released** - The Board has released a consultation paper on a proposed revised registration standard for granting general registration to medical practitioners who hold an Australian Medical Council certificate.

24 March 2016 - **Consultation paper released** - The Board has released a consultation paper on a proposed revised registration standard for specialist registration.

24 March 2016 - **Coroner's Court recommendations** - The coronial inquest into the death of Ms Caroline Lovell has made a number of recommendations for AHPRA and the NMBA.

24 March 2016 - **Tribunal acts on Board's call to cancel registration** - A tribunal has acted on a call by the Medical Board of Australia (the Board) to cancel the registration of a medical practitioner.

23 March 2016 - **Call for applications** - Call for applications for appointment to the Dental Board of Australia's list of approved members for assessment panels

22 March 2016 - **Psychologist permanently prohibited from practising** - A formerly registered psychologist has permanently been prohibited from practising as a psychologist. 30 March 2016

22 March 2016 - **AHPRA welcomes Victorian hospital safety and quality review** - The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) looks forward to contributing to the review of hospital safety and quality assurance in Victoria that was recently commissioned by the Department of Health and Human Services in the light of the tragic deaths of babies at Bacchus Marsh Hospital (Djerriwarrh Health

22 March 2016 - **Briefing: Review of notification systems and processes in Victoria** - An effective and timely system for managing concerns about regulated health practitioners is critical for public safety.

22 March 2016 - **Osteopaths are reminded about their obligations as audit starts** - Osteopaths are reminded about their obligations as health practitioners under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) as audit starts this week (week commencing 21 March 2016).

21 March 2016 - **Newsletter - Registrant Update** - The Physiotherapy Board of Australia has released its latest newsletter.

18 March 2016 - **Fake nurse jailed for four years** - A South Australian woman who had falsely claimed to be a registered nurse was jailed today for four years with a non-parole period of 14 months.

18 March 2016 - **Call for applications** - Call for applications for appointment to National Boards regulating health professions across Australia

Australia. National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

22 March 2016 - **NHMRC awards funding into wind farms and human health** - The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has awarded two grants totalling \$3.3 million to enrich the evidence-based understanding of the effects of wind farms on human health.

24 March 2016 - **NHMRC Health Tracker – March 2016** - NHMRC Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG) Amendments Chapter 6 of the NHMRC ADWG now includes guidance on determining interim guideline values for chemicals detected in drinking water, where they are not listed in the ADWG. Chapter 8 now provides clarification of the approval process for new drinking water treatment chemicals. List of amendments. New NHMRC Partnership Centre: Health System Sustainability – Closing Soon NHMRC's Request for Applications for the next Centre under NHMRC's.

18 March 2016 - **NHMRC Research Tracker**

Australia. Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)

30 March 2016 - **Safety advisory U Slimming and U Plus Slimming capsules**

30 March 2016 - **Medical Devices: how to stay included** - The post-market medical device workshop for sponsors in Sydney on 19 May 2016 is booked out.

29 March 2016 - **MRA GMP clearance application processing timelines - March 2016 update** - GMP clearance application process improvements - updates.

24 March 2016 - [Proposal for the re-scheduling of Codeine products](#) - Update on the up-scheduling of codeine.

24 March 2016 - [Review of the efficacy and safety of over-the-counter codeine combination medicines](#) - Investigating the efficacy and safety of over-the-counter codeine containing combination analgesics for pain and codeine based antitussives.

24 March 2016 - [Independent review of the efficacy and safety of over-the-counter codeine combination medicines](#) - The TGA commissioned an independent review of the safety and efficacy of low dose codeine containing products.

24 March 2016 - [Advertising of vaccination services](#) - Information for immunisation service providers regarding the advertising of the 2016 seasonal influenza vaccination services.

24 March 2016 - [Betamin 100 mg vitamin B1 tablets](#) - Recall - wrong tablets included in bottles from one batch.

22 March 2016 - [Bexsero meningococcal B vaccine](#) - Final update - monitoring finds no new or unexpected safety issues.

Australian Institute of Health & Welfare (AIHW)

16 Mar 2016 - [Admitted patient care 2014–15: Australian hospital statistics](#)

Media release: [Australian private hospital admissions rising faster than public hospital admissions](#)

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

On the Radar – 29 March 2016 – Issue 266 ([PDF 160KB](#)) ([Word 263KB](#))

On the Radar – 21 March 2016 – Issue 265 ([PDF 151KB](#)) ([Word 153KB](#))

Australia. National Mental Health Commission

24 March 2016 - [New report helps us understand patterns of use for mental health treatment](#) - A new publication released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics provides insight into how Australians used mental health related services and medications in 2011. It was produced as part of the Mental Health Services-Census Data Integration Project, on behalf of the National Mental Health Commission.

New South Wales. Ministry of Health

Media Releases

29 March 2016 - [New Blacktown Superstation To The Rescue](#) - Work is underway on Blacktown's new Ambulance "superstation" to provide paramedics with an enhanced multi-million dollar facility to meet the emergency medical needs of Western Sydney communities now and into the future. The Blacktown superstation is part of the NSW Government's \$150 million Sydney Ambulance Metropolitan Infrastructure Strategy (SAMIS) investment, which currently includes five sites across Sydney.

23 March 2016 - [Aboriginal midwifery students join NSW hospitals](#) - Health Minister Jillian Skinner has congratulated the largest cohort of Aboriginal student midwives to commence work in NSW public hospitals.

Policy Directives & Guidelines

31 March 2016 - [Infants and Children: Acute Management of the Unsettled and Crying Infant](#)

22 March 2016 - [Pension Based Scale of Fees - Charging Arrangements and Scale of Fees](#)

Information Bulletins

15 March 2016 - [BCG Vaccine Shortage](#) IB2016_010

New South Wales. Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC)

31 March 2016 - [Updated media release - Mr Brett McCann prohibited from providing counselling services for 18 months](#) - In January 2016, the NSW Health Care Complaints Commission completed its

investigation into the professional conduct of Mr Brett McCann, a health practitioner providing sexual health, relationship and other counselling services in Sydney.

30 March 2016 - **Dr Hamid Khan – Registration cancelled** - The Health Care Complaints Commission prosecuted Dr Hamid Khan, a general practitioner, before the NSW Civil & Administrative Tribunal (NCAT).

30 March 2016 - **Mr Mike Siebe Greive - Registered Nurse - Disqualified for 18 months** - The Health Care Complaints Commission prosecuted Mr Mike Greive, a registered nurse, before the NSW Civil & Administrative Tribunal (NCAT).

22 March 2016 - **Mr Garth Duggan - Registration Cancelled for Six years**

Northern Territory. Department of Health

24 March 2016 - **Dengue Fever on the rise in returned travellers** - The Northern Territory Centre for Disease Control (CDC) is urging travellers to protect themselves against disease carrying mosquitoes when holidaying in South East Asia, following an increase number of returned travellers being diagnosed with dengue fever.

23 March 2016 - **Alert to People Heading Onto the Water this Easter Weekend** - Recreational fishers and others heading out on the water are being warned to be careful with skin protection following a cluster of severe infections caused by Vibrio bacteria. Vibrio bacteria are found in brackish waters across the Top End and can cause severe and even fatal infections, especially in those with poor immune systems and liver disease.

Queensland. Department of Health

1 April 2016 - **Queensland Health's new campaign includes confronting images** - The Queensland Government has today announced a new campaign that will show just how violent the workplace can be for healthcare workers.

30 March 2016 - **Hospital board members consult with Augathella and Morven residents** - South West Hospital and Health Service Board members and executive staff have hit the road to consult with local communities at Augathella and Morven during the board's recent monthly meeting.

24 March 2016 - **Injune is the big winner in Shirley's career change at 40** - Changing careers at 40 proved to be a major turning point in the life of Injune's new Director of Nursing (DON) Shirley Tyrie.

South Australia (SA). Department for Health & Ageing

1 April 2016 - **Reminder of the dangers of falls** - During Falls Awareness Month, South Australians are being reminded of the dangers of falls, despite recent SA Health data showing a decline in serious falls in hospitals last year.

24 Mar 2016 - **Call to end TB today** - On World TB Day, South Australians are being reminded about the importance of tuberculosis (TB) treatment and prevention. Royal Adelaide Hospital Director of Thoracic Medicine and State Director of TB Services, Dr Ral Antic, said The World Health Organization (WHO) is urging governments, community and the private sector to 'unite to end Tuberculosis'.

22 Mar 2016 - **Room for improvement with poison prevention** - South Australians are being urged to "tick off" a poison prevention checklist for each room of their home, following nearly 17,500 calls to Poison Information Centres over the past year.

Tasmania. Department of Health & Human Services

26 March 2016 - **Consistent support for hospital staff with a focus on solutions** - Tasmania has some of the very best and most dedicated hospital staff and health workers in the country and the Tasmanian Government continues to support and acknowledge their efforts.

24 March 2016 - **THS Chief to RHH to identify solutions** - I have asked the CEO of the Tasmanian Health Service, Dr David Alcorn to spend at least a week encamped at the Royal to monitor the increased demand being experienced in the emergency department, and to provide leadership support to identify meaningful solutions.

23 March 2016 - **Health solutions demanded** - As a result of a number of recent incidents in our health system this week, I have this afternoon had urgent discussions with both the Department and THS leadership.

22 March 2016 - **LGH emergency surgery** - Mr Frank Wiggins went into surgery this afternoon. Specialist plastic surgery was required for Mr Wiggins' substantial injuries which were sustained during a fall.

Victoria. Department of Health

1 April 2016 - **Healthy Future For Gippsland Services** - The Andrews Labor Government will fund a Clinical Services Plan for Bass Coast Health to help it better plan for the future. Minister for Health Jill Hennessy announced the \$30,000 grant while visiting Wonthaggi Hospital today as part of a Ministerial Delegation to the region.

30 March 2016 - **Emergency Departments To Close Due To Turnbull Cuts** - Patients in Williamstown and Sandringham could be forced to travel further and wait longer to receive emergency care unless Malcolm Turnbull reverses his latest round of \$73 million cuts to Victoria's health system.

25 March 2016 - **When your kids are sick, you want them to get the best care possible.** - When your kids are sick, you want them to get the best care possible. Last year my daughter Grace had a bit of a rough time and was in and out of The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne for almost two months.

23 March 2016 - **Recognising The True Value Of Paramedics** - The Andrews Labor Government has recognised significant changes to paramedic work requirements over the past ten years. Upon coming to office, we resolved the paramedic pay dispute and referred paramedic pay rates to the Fair Work Commission, delivering on a key election commitment to end the war on paramedics.

20 March 2016 - **Faster Diagnosis For Rare Diseases And Cancers** - More Victorians with genetic conditions will receive quicker diagnoses and better care thanks to the Andrews Labor Government's \$25 million investment in the state's genomic sequencing capability project.

19 March 2016 - **Victorian First Resources For Women With Endometriosis** - Women across Victoria with endometriosis will soon have access to new resources and support to improve earlier diagnosis, treatment and management of the condition. Marking World Endometriosis Day today, Minister for Health, Jill Hennessy, announced the Andrews Labor Government is providing \$100,000 for Jean Hailes for Women's Health to develop new educational resources.

18 March 2016 - **New Life-Saving Cots As Maryborough Hospital Celebrates 160 Years Of Service** - Premier Daniel Andrews and Member for Bendigo West Maree Edwards today joined members of the Central Goldfields community to celebrate the 160th anniversary of Maryborough District Hospital. As part of the anniversary celebrations, the Andrews Labor Government announced \$40,000 towards the purchase of two new neonatal resuscitation cots.

Western Australia (WA). Department of Health

Media Releases

31 March 2016 - **Influenza vaccination during pregnancy may reduce stillbirth risk** - WA Health researchers, in collaboration with the Telethon Kids Institute, have discovered that pregnant women who receive the seasonal influenza vaccination are less likely to experience a stillbirth than unvaccinated mothers.

31 March 2016 - **Minister for Health: New children's hospital opens doors to staff** - Preparations are well advanced for the opening later this year of one of Western Australia's most complex and exciting building projects, the \$1.2 billion, 298-bed Perth Children's Hospital (PCH).

31 March 2016 - **Drug dispensary moves into the robotic age** - The sophisticated drug inventory management robots move and store medications within the Pharmacy department from the time they are delivered to the hospital to when they are required on the wards.

24 March 2016 - **Mosquito-borne disease warning for the Kimberley region** - The Department of Health is reminding residents and travellers in the Kimberley region of Western Australia to take

precautions to avoid mosquito bites, following the first evidence of Murray Valley encephalitis (MVE) and Kunjin (KUN) viruses in WA this year.

23 March 2016 - **Minister for Health and Minister for Regional Development Early detection saving sight of diabetics** - People living with diabetes in remote areas of the Goldfields region can now access advanced retinal screening closer to home thanks to a new partnership between the WA Country Health Service and the Lions Eye Institute.

22 March 2016 - **HIV case prompts call for STI testing** - WA Health is urging anyone who has had unprotected sex with a recently charged sex worker to seek medical advice. Clayton James Palmer, who identifies as a woman and worked under the name Sienna Fox, was charged with a grievous bodily harm offence by WA Police last month for allegedly infecting a male client with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). It is alleged that the sex worker had unprotected sex without disclosing that she was carrying the virus

22 March 2016 - **More help from painHEALTH website** - Australia's first website dedicated to musculoskeletal pain will soon mark its third anniversary with a greatly expanded offering of pain management tips, skills and information for consumers.

21 March 2016 - **Minister for Health and Deputy Premier: Lions Outback Vision Van hits the road** - Deputy Premier Liza Harvey has officially opened the new Lions Eye Institute's Outback Vision Van, Western Australia's newest mobile eye health clinic.

21 March 2016 - **Meningococcal disease in a school child** - The Department of Health today reported that a school-aged child is recovering in hospital after having been diagnosed with meningococcal disease.

18 March 2016 - **WA Health pair to share science spotlight** - Two WA Health researchers are among the presenter line up for the second Science on the Swan Conference to be held in May.

18 March 2016 - **Minister for Health: Dangerous substances prohibited under Poisons Act**

New Zealand. Ministry of Health

1 April 2016 - **Our Older People's Oral Health: Key Findings of the 2012 New Zealand Older People's Oral Health Survey** - The 2012 New Zealand Older People's Oral Health Survey is part of the "Study into Older People's Oral Health Issues"; an umbrella project funded by the Ministry of Health, specifically designed to supplement the findings of the 2009 New Zealand Oral Health Survey.

24 March 2016 - **Population-based Funding Formula Review: 2015 Technical Report** - This report describes the 2014/15 Review of the Population-based Funding Formula (PBFF). The funding formula is a technical tool used to help equitably distribute the bulk of district health board funding according to the needs of each DHB's population. The formula takes into account the number of people who live in each DHB catchment, their age, socio-economic status, ethnicity, and sex. It also has mechanisms to compensate DHBs who service rural communities and areas of high deprivation.

23 March 2016 - **Annual Report on Drinking-water Quality 2014-2015** - The Annual Report on Drinking-water Quality 2014-15 describes drinking-water quality for all registered networked drinking-water supplies that served populations of more than 100 people from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.

22 March 2016 - **Evaluation of the Pharmacy Accuracy Checking Technician Demonstration** - The evaluation conducted by Quigley and Watts Ltd and supported by the University of Otago School of Pharmacy research staff has demonstrated positive outcomes for the establishment of Pharmacy Accuracy Checking Technicians into the pharmacy workforce.

United States of America. Department of Health & Human Services

29 March 2016 - **HHS takes steps to increase access to the opioid use disorder treatment medication buprenorphine** - In conjunction with the President's visit to the National Rx Drug Abuse and Heroin Summit, HHS today announced a proposal to allow qualified physicians to prescribe the opioid use disorder treatment medication buprenorphine to an increased number of patients.

23 March 2016 - [Independent experts confirm that diabetes prevention model supported by the Affordable Care Act saves money and improves health](#) - First ever preventive service model eligible for expansion under Medicare holds promise for employers, private insurers and patients

Australian Medical Association (AuMA)

31 March 2016 - [Health care homes trial recognises pivotal role of general practice in primary health care](#) - The AuMA welcomes the Government's vision for Health Care Homes, and its acknowledgement of the pivotal role of general practice in primary health care in Australia, especially in the ongoing treatment of patients with chronic and complex health conditions.

23 March 2016 - [AuMA supports better mental health services for defence force personnel](#) - The AuMA supports many of the recommendations of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee report into the Mental Health of Australian Defence Force (ADF) Members and Veterans, which was released yesterday. AuMA President, Professor Brian Ower, said today the proposal for annual mental health screening for Australian Defence Force personnel is particularly welcome.

ABOUT US

Caroline Atkins



Caroline Atkins is the Office Managing Partner for the Canberra office of DLA Piper and has worked extensively in the health sector for Australian Government agencies. Her experience includes the conduct of major technology projects for the health sector, such as in the e-health and aged care sectors, and in advising the Commonwealth on the implementation of policy programs in contractual arrangements (including for medical indemnity insurance and for CSO arrangements for PBS funding). She has also advised the National Blood Authority on major Commonwealth contracts for the supply of blood products including with the Red Cross and CSL. Caroline's commercial experience extends over 30 years and also includes significant experience in ICT outsourcing, whole-of-government technology procurements, intellectual property rights licensing, contract management, procurement strategy and dispute resolution.

Contact Details

T +61 2 6201 8789

caroline.atkins@dlapiper.com

MORE INFORMATION

Contact your nearest DLA Piper office:

BRISBANE

Level 9, 480 Queen Street
Brisbane QLD 4000
T +61 7 3246 4000
F +61 7 3229 4077
brisbane@dlapiper.com

CANBERRA

Level 3, 55 Wentworth Avenue
Kingston ACT 2604
T +61 2 6201 8787
F +61 2 6230 7848
canberra@dlapiper.com

MELBOURNE

Level 21, 140 William Street
Melbourne NSW 3000
T +61 3 9274 5000
F +61 3 9274 5111
melbourne@dlapiper.com

PERTH

Level 31, Central Park
152–158 St Georges Terrace
Perth WA 6000
T +61 8 6467 6000
F +61 8 6467 6001
perth@dlapiper.com

SYDNEY

Level 22, No.1 Martin Place
Sydney NSW 2000
T +61 2 9286 8000
F +61 2 9286 8007
sydney@dlapiper.com

www.dlapiper.com

DLA Piper is a global law firm operating through various separate and distinct legal entities.

For further information, please refer to www.dlapiper.com

Copyright © 2016 DLA Piper. All rights reserved.

If you would like to reproduce any of this publication, please contact Michael Regos on +61 3 9274 5437 or michael.regos@dlapiper.com.

1203146647